

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 18352 101211Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 HA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00

ARA-10 /115 W

-----042732 110356Z /61

R 101135Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8343

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, EINV, IT, ET, SO

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ITALY BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 6071, B. MOGADISCIO 1829

1. SUMMARY: PURPOSE OF VISIT TO ROME BY ETHIOPIAN MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS, ACCORDING TO ITALIANS, WAS TO INFORM GOI OF RENEWED ETHIOPIAN INTEREST IN WESTERN TIES. DAWIT REITERATED ETHIOPIAN REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE OGADEN DISPUTE WITHOUT PRIOR SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. MEANWHILE, SOMALIS CONTINUE TO URGE GOI TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF OGADEN CONFLICT. ITALIANS SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR THE TIME BEING ANDDVARE CONCENTRATING ON MAINTAINING GENERALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 18352 101211Z

2. MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE GAVE EMBOFF READOUT NOV. 8 ON OCT. 24-25 VISIT TO ROME BY DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS, PERMANENT SECRETARY AT ETHIOPIAN MFA. AS FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI WAS ILL, DAWIT WAS RECEIVED BY MFA UNDER SECRETARIES RADI AND FOSCHI. HE ALSO MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. DAWIT REFUSED ITALIAN OFFER TO ARRANGE PRESS CONFERENCE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE FEARED DISRUPTION BY SIZABLE ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN ROME.

3. MAIN POINT OF DAWIT'S PRESENTATION TO ITALIANS WAS THAT ETHIOPIANS FEEL THEY MADE A MISTAKE IN TURNING THEIR BACKS ON THE WEST, THUS LEAVING FIELD OPEN FOR SOMALIS TO COURT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION. AS ETHIOPIANS BELIEVE UN AND OAU PRINCIPLES ARE ON THEIR SIDE, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO REOPEN COMMUNICATION WITH WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN EFFORT TO MAKE THEIR CASE KNOWN.

4. DAWIT'S IMMEDIATE GOAL WAS TO REPAIR ETHIOPIAN-ITALIAN RELATIONS. EPMG HAS MADE SEVERAL GESTURES TO WIN GOI APPROVAL INCLUDING

RELEASE OF ITALIAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR PLOTTING WITH ERITREANS (AND SUBSEQUENT PERMISSION FOR HIM TO RETURN TO ITALY), REDUCTION IN CLAIMS OF BACK TAXES OWED BY ITALIAN NATIONALS (EPMG PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED TAXES FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD IN THE PAST BUT NOW ARE LIMITING CLAIMS TO LAST FIVE YEARS), AND GRANTING OF MORE EXIT VISAS TO ITALIANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE. IN RETURN, ETHIOPIANS PRIMARILY WANT ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. WHILE ITALIANS CLAIMED THT THEIR NORMAL PRACTICE PREVENTED COMMUNIQUE AT CLOSE OF SUCH VISITS, TWO SIDES DID AGREE TO JOINT PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT ETHIOPIANS SOUGHT SETTLEMENT OF OGADEN DISPUTE ON BASIS OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THAT ITALIANS SOUGHT PEACEFUL SOLUTION BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF UN AND OAU. THIS FORMULATION, ACCORDING TO RACHELE, SATISFIED ETHIOPIANS. IN ADDITION, ITALIANS WILL RESUME PROGRAMS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FOOD AID, SUSPENDED FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 18352 101211Z

5. DAWIT PREDICTED A DECISIVE CHANGE IN OGADEN SITUATION IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD UNDERTAKE A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND,

WITH SOVIET EQUIPMENT NOW ARRIVING REGULARLY, EXPECTED TO DO WELL. IN ANY

CASE, ETHIOPIANS REMAIN OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS SOMALIS WITHDRAW FROM OGADEN.

6. AS TO SOMALIA, RACHELE DESCRIBED SIAD APPROACHES TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

SALAMEI ALONG LINES OF REF. B. SIAD WANTED ITALIANS FIRST TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF DISPUTE AND THEN, IF SOVIETS WOULD NOT REDUCE HELP TO ETHIOPIA AND IF CUBANS WOULD NOT LEAVE, TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SOMALIA. SIAD DESCRIBED WHAT HE SAW AS SOVIET PLANS TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE HORN AND SAID THAT IF ASSISTANCE NOT FORTHCOMING FROM THE WEST, HE WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE SOVIETS, APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE, AND ACCEPT SOVIET MEDIATION IN OGADEN. MEANWHILE, SOMALIS CONTINUE TO ASK ITALIANS FOR HELP ESPECIALLY IN CONTEXT OF ITALIAN PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO SOMALI POLICE. SOMALIS ARE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN TRUCKS AND

SECONDARILY IN GUNS AND AMMUNITION.

7. RACHELE ADDED THT ITALIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT SOVIET COMMITMENT TO ETHIOPIA WILL CAUSE THEM TO STEP UP AID TO EPMG. SOMALIS HAVE PROVED TO BE BETTER FIGHTERS THAN EXPECTED, AND CONSTANT INFIGHTING AMONG ETHIOPIAN UNITS HAS NOT HELPED MATTERS ANY. WHILE ITALIANS THINK THT THE USSR MIGHT TRY TO CONVICE CUBANS TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBER PRESENT IN ETHIOPIA, THEY BELIEVE THAT CUBAN EXPERIENCE IN ANGOLA HAS BEEN ENOUGH FOR THEM FOR THE TIME BEING. HOLMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME18352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770416-0745
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771174/aaaaclap.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08ada91d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 6071, 77 MOGADISCIO 1829
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 639963
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO ITALY BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, EINV, IT, ET, SO, (WOLDE-GHIORGIS, DAWIT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08ada91d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009